

MINUTES
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION
APRIL 3, 2014 5:00 P.M.
TOWN HALL ANNEX – COMMUNITY ROOM 2

I. ROLL CALL

Present: Mathanool, Obrey, Cummings, Dowling
Staff: Clarke

Also in attendance: Susan Dean-Shinbrot, Bob Frink, Andrew Lavery, Catherine Young, Susan Bailey, Genevieve Cerf, Rick Moravsik, Jay Fisher, Rob Rowilson

The meeting was called to order at 4:42 p.m.

II. PUBLIC COMMUNICATIONS

Obrey mentioned that economic development generally comes up in conversations more now than in the past.

Mathanool attended the announcement of the CURE facility at Pfizer on April 2nd.

III. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF special meeting of March 6, 2014

Motion to approve the minutes as amended made by Dowling, seconded by Obrey. Motion passed 3-0-1, 1 abstention (Cummings).

IV. PRESENTATION –Goman & York

Jay Fisher and Rob Rowilson gave a presentation about Goman & York, a real estate consulting firm that presented to Town Council last week.

Frink mentioned that he will be proposing funds to be set aside for these kinds of initiatives during the Town Council budget meeting later this evening.

V. OLD BUSINESS

1. Business Incentives

Obrey suggested that the EDC review the history of the Business Incentives initiative that the Commission started last year. There was a lot of good information pulled together in Bruce's plan that could be used to bring back to the group.

2. Economic Gardening

Clarke explained a proposed program that seCTer is pursuing with the National Economic Gardening Center to create a pilot Economic Gardening program for the region. Groton and other municipalities would encourage appropriate companies to apply to participate.

VI. NEW BUSINESS

1. Inventory of Vacant Commercial and Retail Sites

Clarke explained how SiteFinder is used currently; how staff assists businesses looking to find space in Groton, and how staff interacts with commercial realtors and

seCTer to assist business owners. Obrey discussed how challenging it can be to market commercial properties and how cost prohibitive some marketing tools are.

Clarke will look into all features of SiteFinder and whether the Town's website could be used to promote properties in ways additional to SiteFinder. Obrey will look into a realtor's workshop.

2. CERC & seCTer- Role in Promoting Groton sites & opportunities

Discussed concurrently with previous agenda item.

VII. REPORT OF COMMITTEES

1. Update to Plan of Conservation & Development- Report from EDC Liaison

The update is on schedule and a draft will be ready soon.

2. Groton Business Association- Report from EDC Liaison – No report

VIII. REPORT OF STAFF

Staff distributed a written report. Some highlights:

- Testified in Hartford on March 18th in favor of House Bill 5574, legislation introduced by local representatives with the purpose of achieving some of the goals set out in a study completed last year about bioscience in Southeastern Connecticut
- Working with Peter Legnos on financial incentives for the expansion of LBI. Attended a walk-through of the facility with Town Councilors.
- Met with Matt Nemeth, business advisor for SBDC, about partnering and business referrals

IX. ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn at 6:47 p.m. made by Mathanool, seconded by Obrey; passed unanimously.

Lian Obrey, Secretary
Economic Development Commission